



Tapu'itea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Tuesday
June 6,
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 11

Governor Togiola pays tribute to fallen heroes in Memorial Day ceremony at Satala Cemetery

Governor Togiola Tulafono on Monday, Memorial Day, honored the Territory and the nation's fallen heroes at the annual ceremony and tribute to all those that sacrificed their lives in all of the nation's wars.

The following is the official text of the Memorial Day Address that was delivered by Governor Togiola Tulafono at Satala Cemetery:

I read something recently that really caused me concern. I read that the "memorial" in Memorial Day has been ignored by too many of us who are beneficiaries of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Often we do not observe the day as it should be, a day where we actively remember our ancestors, our family members, our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice. It's sad but true. I think too many people just take this day for granted and it's just a holiday for them.

In Samoa, we have extended the significance of this day to remember our own non-military relatives by decorating their graves and placing beautiful flowers on them. I am glad, and I encourage this extended tradition we have developed in remembrance of Memorial Day, as long as we do not forget the real reason and the necessity to maintain the connection of this significant day to its high honor.

NEED TO RECONNECT

In an Army statement I read recently, it states: "Memorial Day is the time for Americans to reconnect with their history and core values by honoring those who gave their lives for the ideals we cherish."

Two things to me stand out in that statement:

(1) We cannot fully appreciate the deep meaning of this remembrance without understanding and appreciating our history with it. (Continued on page 4)



Governor Togiola Tulafono delivers the annual Memorial Day Address on Monday, May 29th to honor the Territory and the nation's fallen heroes as a tribute to all those that sacrificed their lives in all of the nation's wars.

DPW M&O crew bring relief to Fogagogo residents

The Department of Public Works (DPW), Maintenance & Operations (M&O) crew recently completed work on a drainage project that began in January in the Fogagogo area.

Long time resident Wyatt Bowles Sr. said motorists and pedestrians would often exchange derogatory remarks as they try to cross the four foot high waters during and after a rainstorm. As a result of the poor drainage in this section of road, the stagnant smelly "lake", as residents call it, frequently caused vehicles to stall and hold up traffic. "But all that has changed, thanks to efforts of the DPW M&O crew," said Bowles.

"The project was scheduled for three months, but weather and residents concerns hindered progress," said Estela Rubin, Civil Engineer for DPW. "We persevered despite these minor set-backs."

According to Rubin, McConnell Dowell was, however, contracted to construct and install the two catch basins and did the drilling. In addition, some heavy equipment was rented for drilling and excavating solid rocks. DPW M&O completed the majority of the project. The project was financed with local funds.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On May 27, 1942, a cargo ship carrying 300 tons of building supplies and equipment for the Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3 ("MOB 3") arrived in Tutuila. 'Round-the-clock unloading required eight days.

On May 27, 1942, the first elements of the U.S. Marine Corps' 8th Defense Battalion, under the command of Colonel Raphael Griffin, departed Tutuila for duty in the Wallis Islands, aboard USS *Harris* and USS *Zeilen*.

On May 27, 1977, Frank Barnett completed his term as American Samoa's 12th appointed civil governor (since October 1, 1976).

On May 28, 1944, USS *Adams* replaced USS *Wheeling* as station ship at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

On May 28, 1977, Hyrum Rex Lee began his interim term as American Samoa's 13th (and last) appointed civil governor (until January 3, 1978).

On May 29, 1902, USS *Wheeling* replaced USS *Abarenda* as station ship at the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila.

On May 29, 1944, as World War II's Pacific battlefronts moved farther westward and northward, the Commander, South Pacific Area and Force instructed the Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila to "institute a program of redeployment of personnel and materials for use in forward areas." This program was completed on December 21, 1944.

On May 29, 1968, "Father Pio Taofinu'u [was] consecrated and installed Bishop of Samoa and Tokelau."

On May 29, 2003, landslides caused by torrential rainfall resulted in widespread flooding in American Samoa. Four people were killed and eight injured. Governor Togiola Tulafono declared a Territorial State of Emergency "with all non-essential government services and schools to remain closed."

On May 30, 1938, Commander Nathan Woodworth Post, American Samoa's eighth naval governor (acting: March 14-July 14, 1913 and October 2-December 6, 1914), died at the Mare Island Naval Hospital in California. His cause of death was recorded as carcinoma of the colon. Commander Post was the first naval governor to serve two non-consecutive terms. (The other one was Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln: August 2, 1929-March 24, 1931 and July 17, 1931 to May 12, 1932).

On May 31, 1942, Rear Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd's board finished its inspection report, which stated that there were 7,995 Navy and Marine Corps personnel on Tutuila, plus 100 men in the Fitafta Guard. The report went on to say that Tutuila's defense force was strong enough to repel minor raids and landings, but not strong enough to thwart a major assault.

On May 31, 1959, American Samoa's church-operated schools (London Missionary Society, Roman Catholic, Assemblies of God and Seventh-Day Adventist) employed 34 teachers who instructed 1,070 students.

On June 1, 1919, the value of American Samoa's Samoan Hospital Fund was reported as \$13,976.33. On June 1, 1948, Western Samoa's new flag was raised ceremonially for the first time, and was flown together with the New Zealand flag in Apia.

On June 1, 1962, Western Samoa celebrated its independence (which was achieved on January 1, 1962) on this date, because of better weather. This practice continues today.

On June 1, 1986, two teams of archaeologists arrived in American Samoa to conduct archaeological surveys. Dr. Patrick Vinton Kirch and Mr. Terry Lynn Hunt of the University of Washington, conducted a survey of the Manu'a Islands. Dr. Jeffrey Todd Clark of North Dakota State University and Mr. David Herdrich of the University of Illinois, investigated the northeast coast of Tutuila.

DPW add new equipment to boost fleet operations

Clearing clogged drain culvert and boxes by DPW Road Maintenance section used to be an expensive task considering the rental units used.

"We would rent a vacuum truck from Samoa Maritime to suck dirt and other debris from the drains so that the drain functions properly – and sometimes we run our bill into the thousands," commented Fatu'ai Faumui, a supervisor for the road maintenance crew. The new vacuum trailer that arrived last week will mean the crew will have the equipment readily available for use any time and DPW will save money on rental charges. "Having the trailer on stand-by in times of natural disaster is very comforting," assured Faumui.

Aside from the vacuum trailer; two 2005 model medium sized dump trucks arrived last month to alleviate work load and dependence on few trucks currently operating. The increase said Faumui, will expedite a variety of service to the public.

A (Cat 426B) backhoe and an (Cat 320G) excavator also boost heavy equipment arsenal for the department. The crew also has a new paint stripping machine.

But the Road Maintenance crew is not the only section enjoying equipment upgrade. The Motor Pool section has an electronic and gas analyzer diagnostic equipment on the high-tech end of things, while the OSHA compliance paint booth is currently underway. Funding for the equipment is from 2005 CIP worth \$400,000. Other portions of the DIP will go in to maintenance and training on equipment



ASG RADIO PROGRAM
Governor Togiola Tulafono
Saturdays @ 7a.m.
Showers of Blessings-FM 104.7
Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

ASCC Co-sponsors Alofau Coral Farm Project

By Dr. Carolyn Braun, ASCC Marine Science Department

Over the holiday weekend, The Coalition of Reef Lovers (CORL) and the American Samoa Community College Marine Science Department held a community environmental awareness workshop for the village of Alofau. This was the first in a series of workshops that will be held in Alofau as part of a six-month village based coral farming project for industry and habitat restoration. Alofau village will act as a demonstration site for village based mariculture, as well as introduce American Samoa to coral farming as a tool for ecosystem management which will serve to educate the public on becoming stewards of their environment. Alofau was selected to serve as the demonstration site because of its large inner reef lagoon, which is covered by sand and well suited for coral farming, the interest of the residents, and because the village has created a marine management area which restricts fishing in the lagoon.

The workshop took participants on an exploratory discovery walk of the village, allowing them to identify the land-based factors that can cause stress to the coastal habitats. Participants then held a round table discussion to find ways to address these problems and promote good stewardship. The next step will be a community action workshop where participants will conduct the first in a series of coastal and underwater reef clean-ups. After the area is clean, the coral farm will be set-up. The village of Alofau will be involved in a workshop which will introduce them to the concept of creating a village based industry for the benefit of the community. Coral farm set-up, coral reef ecology, and coral propagation techniques will also be taught.

CORL would like to thank the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) for funding this project, and would like to acknowledge the following sponsors:

ACE Hardware, Cost-U-Less, KS Mart, The Yacht Club, ASCC SEEDS Environmental Club, The American Samoa Community College Marine Science Program, and the village of Alofau. The next workshop "Community Environmental Action" will be held from 7am to noon on Saturday, June 3. Anyone interested in attending should contact Mike King at 688-7770.



Alofau residents, along with ASCC Marine Science students, tour their village during the community environmental awareness workshop this past weekend. Alofau will soon be the site of a Coral Reef Farming Project. (Photo courtesy ASCC Sea Grant)

Public Notice

In accordance with the ASCA 16.2002 and rule codified in sections 13.02002 and 13.0203 and 4.1005 (Rule #02-2006), the American Samoa Board of Higher Education and the American Samoa Community College wishes to inform the public that beginning the Fall term of 2006, the tuition flat rate currently charged to students will be eliminated.

The policy in the ASCC Catalog 2004-2006 (Pg. 64) would be amended as follows:

Tuition at the American Samoa Community College is \$45 per credit hour for residents and \$60 for per credit hour for non-resident students.

Interested persons may obtain information about tuition rates at the ASCC Office of the President from May 30th, 2006 to June 30th, 2006 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on regular workdays. The phone number is 699.8886 or 699.9155 ext. 350.

Also, written comments about these tuition rates can be submitted by facsimile to Dr. Adele Satele-Galea'i at 699.6259, email at p.morris@ascc.as, or by mail at American Samoa Community College, PO Box 2609, American Samoa 96799. The deadline for submission is 30 days of this notice.

Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as

Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.

contact Harry Stevens @733-1694

or

Vince Iuli @ 258-1041

Governor Togiola's Memorial Day Address *(continued from page 1)*

(2) That it is an appropriate honor that we do not squander the gifts. And the only way we can honor that sacrifice, is to continue to embrace and live by the "core values" that has sustained this great nation.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Army history provides that: "More than a million American service members died in the wars and conflicts this nation fought since the first colonial soldiers took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each person who died during those conflicts was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to the community and the nation." And we know and understand that only too well right here in American Samoa. Many of our own families have lost a father, mother, husband, son, daughter, sister or brother in one of those wars and conflicts, as well as the conflicts of present days.

MEMORIAL DAY YESTERDAY AND TODAY It is said that: "The observance of this day was born of compassion and empathy in 1863." It all started with grieving mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and other loved ones that were cleaning their confederate soldiers' graves, when they noticed nearby the union soldiers' graves, were dusty, overgrown with weeds. The statement continued "Grieving for their own fallen soldiers, the confederate women understood that the dead union soldiers buried nearby were the cherished loved ones of families and communities far away. They cleared the tangled brush and mud from those graves as well as their own soldiers' graves and laid flowers on them too."

"Soon the tradition of a 'Decoration Day' for the graves of fallen soldiers spread. On May 5, 1866, when the Civil War was over, Henry Welles of Waterloo, New York, closed his drugstore and suggested that all other shops in town also close up for a day to honor all soldiers killed in the Civil War, union and confederate alike. It was a gesture of healing and reconciliation in a land ripped apart by conflict."

Sixteen years later, in 1882, the nation observed its first official Memorial Day, a day set aside to remember and honor the sacrifice of those who died in all our nation's wars. As I understand it in the past on Memorial Day, stores closed and communities gathered for parades and other celebrations with a patriotic theme. So few pay attention to the importance of this day anymore, even in our own Territory. Fortunately, in some places, some ceremonies do continue, as we are doing here today. And we do this every year in order to remember the true meaning of Memorial Day. We come together to pay tribute and honor our fallen heroes, and the ideals and values they stood for and died defending. Sadly, the Army statement that I read continues: "...many Americans have lost this connection with their history. For a growing percentage of the American people, Memorial Day has come to mean simply a three-day weekend or a major shopping day. Families might still gather for picnics, but for many of them, the patriotic core—the spirit of remembrance—is absent." "We are living in a time of economic prosperity, when threats are not well understood. Many young people have no personal connection to the military, and are not inclined to join the military." Gladly for us in American Samoa, we do not share this growing apathy and ignorance that the Army claims to be happening in our nation. We continue to be represented well in our armed services. But you know with that high number of representation, the price has been the highest per capita loss of life in present conflicts around the world. It behooves each and every one of us, therefore, to do all that is necessary to keep the connection alive and active.

What can you do, as one individual, or as a community?

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

As Margaret Mead once said so well, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." First of all, I want you to understand that we are doing an important duty today, making a difference, by participating in this event today. We are saying to our people and to the world that we are not forgetting the sacrifices of our soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen and coast guardsmen.

Many good people are also doing things that make a difference in reconnecting our nation to its history and to the sacrifice of our men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice. People like:

1. Carmella La Spada - who inspired the observance of a minute of silence on Memorial Day at 3 pm.
2. Each year since 1996, the "No Greater Love Foundation" has worked to expand the campaign further, by trying to assure that every American hears an announcement on Memorial Day at 3 pm., calling for a moment of silence. One minute out of the year to remember those who made the greatest possible sacrifice. We should all remember to observe this moment of silence on Memorial Day. If you cannot do anything else to remember the memories of our fallen heroes, a one minute of silent remembrance out of the year will be a great tribute. There are others who have made a difference taking action on a smaller scale, in their school, in their community, and one-on-one. The Internet has also created the opportunity for a different kind of memorial ceremony. It has been reported that "a number of dedicated individuals have spent their time creating and maintaining Memorial Day and other veteran-related web sites on the Internet. These sites are available year-round, 24-hours-a-day, for individuals to learn more about our military history and individual veterans. Many of the sites link to other sites and include photos, individual memories, poems, prayers and music. These sites allow more personal reflection. They make information and remembrance internationally available, even to the homebound." We can all make a difference with our individual acts. And it is important that we act to help re-connect the American people to the American soldier, marine, sailor, airman and coast guardsman, and the values they hold dear and defend.

SERVICE VALUES

And I believe that as we reflect on the memories of those who have given their lives to protect and preserve the ideals of democracy that we enjoy, it is important to understand these things:

1. What is it that inspires and enables ordinary citizens to rise to the challenge of battle, to be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country?
2. What is it that motivates them to respond and contribute wherever and whenever called upon to do so. "The answer is values. "The proud legacy of our armed services -and our country- is grounded in these core values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless-service, honor, integrity, and personal courage."

These values have kept our nation strong, and the greatest honor we can give our fallen heroes is to continue to embrace them and live by them always. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. And we can only pay that debt by not forgetting, by remembering what they did, and what they stood for.

To conclude today, I invite you to listen to these words by Charles M. Province about how it is we gain the freedom we enjoy:

IT IS THE SOLDIER...

"It is the Soldier, not the reporter, Who has given us Freedom of the Press.

It is the Soldier, not the poet, Who has given us Freedom of Speech.

It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer, Who has given us the Freedom to demonstrate.

It is the Soldier, not the lawyer, Who has given us the right to a fair trial;

And it is the Soldier—who salutes the flag, Who serves the flag, and

Whose coffin is draped by the flag, Who allows the protester to bum the flag."

Please join me in a moment of silence as we all remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and their families left behind. Let us continue to make a difference with our words and actions. Let us never forget our heroes who have made it possible for us to enjoy this freedom today. Let us also remember to pray for all our men and women in armed forces and other protective services around the world, who are continuing to stand guard to protect our liberty and pursuit of happiness. Soifua.

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